

LEAN TRANSFORMATION CLEARS SPACE, IMPROVES QUALITY

ABOUT VA BIEN INTERNATIONAL, INC. Va Bien, located in Aguas Buenas, Puerto Rico, designs and manufactures innovative lingerie, bras, bustiers, shapewear, plus-size bras, and bridal garments. The family-owned business approximately 60 employees and two manufacturing plants. The design, prototyping and accessories manufacturing takes place in Puerto Rico, while a second plant in El Seibo, Dominican Republic, takes care of the final assembly. Richard Gimble is the President and CEO of Va Bien. His wife, Marianne, is the Director, and their son, Gregory Gimble, is Vice President and Creative Director.

THE CHALLENGE. Va Bien had several operational issues that were negatively impacting deliveries and process efficiency. Both plants lacked an established product flow. The company needed to define and implement production standards, identify metrics for measuring operational performance, and improve its material-purchasing system.

MEP CENTER'S ROLE. The Gimble family reached out to PRiMEX, a NIST MEP affiliate, for assistance in improving the operational effectiveness of both manufacturing plants. After reviewing Va Bien's operations, PRiMEX led the company through a Lean Transformation with trainings and exercises designed to streamline processes and improve product quality. Changes to the production area increased floor space and improved on-time delivery, as Va Bien created a process to ensure the company had an appropriate amount of inventory based on sales and capacity.

"We appreciate the work done by the team of PRiMEX. The review of our operation was very thorough and the recommendations for improvement were spot on. The implementation steps taken so far seem to be effective and we look forward to implementing the remaining recommendations in the future."

-Mr. Greg Gimble, Performance Manager

RESULTS



Process quality improvement of **24%** over previous year



Improved on-time delivery by **18%**



Floor space increased by **30%** in the production area

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